AFPIA-11 5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM , Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~co-pilot (Fighter)~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? yes

Where? near Pleven, Bulgaria

If not, why not? —

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He told us to bail out

Was he injured? no

Where was he when last seen? on a train, with Bulgarian civilian Police

Any necessary information: —

Source: —

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: As Lt. Markham was unharmed at the time he was last seen on the train it is my belief he tried to escape and was killed in the attempt. Either that or I suspect foul play by the Bulgarians, which is a thing we know they did in other instances

Total number of missions of above crew member: 29

Dates and destinations if possible: From 29 March 1944 To 18 May 1944

6-3861-AF

AFPIA-P1

5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM, Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Crew (Fighter)~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? About thirty miles west of Pleven, Bulgaria.

If not, why not? xxxxx

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Pilot asked for and was told absolute altitude. Pilot then gave order to bail out.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? ~~Making normal descent in~~ parachute.

Any necessary information: ~~Pilot was seen next day by S/Sgts.~~ Louis Muzzi and Gerald Sasser, members of the crew, on a train; the train was between Pleven and Sofia at this time. Lt. Markham was in custody of Bulgarian ~~civil police, was taken off train before it reached~~ Sofia.

Source: ~~S/Sgts. Louis Muzzi and Gerald Sasser.~~

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: My belief that he was probably killed while trying to escape is based only on my knowledge of Lt. Markhams' character.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Thirty.

Dates and destinations if possible: Participated in raids on Bad Voslau, Weiner-Neustadt, Budapest, Steyr, Campini, Ploesti, Bucharest, Turnu-Severin, Montfalcone, Milan, Bologna, Turin and La Spezia between March 28 and May 18, 1944.

6-3861-AF

AFPA-11

5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM, Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter) [redacted] Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near Pleven, Bulgaria

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Just before we bailed out he gave us the go signal

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? The waist tail gunner saw him on the train that was bearing them to Sofia, Bulgaria

Any homesay information: None except S/Sgt Louis A Muzii, waist gunner and S/Sgt Gerald F Sasser, tail gunner, said they talked with him on a train as guards were bringing them to Sofia to join us.

Source: Crew members of our crew

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: No except we thought they and the were taking him to Germany

Total number of missions of above crew member: 30

Dates and destinations if possible: I can't recall all dates 9 missions flown.

6-3861-AF

AFPIA-11

5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM, Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Pilot

Did he bail out? yes

Where? vicinity of PLEVEN, BULGARIA

If not, why not? ~~vicinity of~~ PLEVEN, BULGARIA

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Interphone conversation, orders to bail out.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? On train enroute to Sophia, Bulgaria.

Any homesay information: No

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: When I last spoke to him he was on the train as stated above. He was under armed guard and was being taken to higher authorities for questioning. Since there was only one prison camp in Bulgaria and he was not interned there as the rest of crew, including myself, the only supposition isthat he was murdered.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 30

Dates and destinations if possible: Missions were made from March 30th through May 18th, 1944, with the 455 Bomb Group, 743 Bomb Squadron, 15th Air Force, Italy.

6-3861-AF

AFPIA-11

5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM, Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Bulgaria, near Plevin

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Over interphone

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? On a Plevin - Sofia train

Any necessary information: Seen on train, under guard, by crew members, Louis Mujic and Gerald Sasser

Source: From above named crew members

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He was taken off the train by six civilian guards before it reached Sofia. This was seen by Louis Mujic and Gerald Sasser

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 29

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861-AF

ATPIA-11 5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM , Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~(Fighter)~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Near Plevin, Bulgaria

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Talked to him just a moment before we both bailed out, nothing important.

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? On flight deck of B-24 Bomber

Any necessary information: Was later reported seen on Sofia bound train in custody of civilian police. Taken from train about an hour's run outside of Sofia. No subsequent information available.

Source: Gerald Sasser, S/Sgt. and Louis Muzii, S/Sgt.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: May have attempted escape from police after removal from train. He had advised above named crew members during train ride that he was pretending to be a fighter pilot and not associated with our crew at all. Acted thus so that the Bulgarians would not know definitely the number of crew members in our ship.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ?

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861-AF

AFPIA-1

5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM, Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter) Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Near Plevin, Bulgaria.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I talked to him before I bailed out

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? Traveling from Plevin, Bulgaria toward the capitol, Sofia, Bulgaria by train, under guard.

Any hearsay information: The above information was hearsay given by two of my crew members who were on the same train, also under guard.

Source: S/Sgts. Louis A. Mussi and Gerald E. Sasser

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19 single missions

Dates and destinations if possible: Sorry, but I do not possess a copy of dates nor destinations.

6-3861-AF

AFPIA-11 5057

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MARKHAM , Thomas J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-803340
Position: Crew (Bomber) Pilot

Did he bail out? YES

Where? near the town of Isac, Bulgaria

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Parting words on interphone

Was he injured? To my Knowledge, no

Where was he when last seen? By me, when he made his escape after bailing.

Any homesay information: He was last seen by Louis Muzii and Gerald Sasser on May 19, 1944 at a stop (town) approximately twenty minutes train ride from Sofia, Bulgaria. He was in good health when last seen.

Source: Two crew members mentioned above

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He was in hands of civilian militia who were very rough. We know he was alive on May 19, 1944. When harm came to him, it must have been done by them. I believe they had caused him harm, because they had done much threating to us including our life during interrogation.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 30 sorties

Dates and destinations if possible: March 29 - Milan, Italy / April 2 - Steyr, Austria / 4th Bucharest Romania / 12 Bad Voslau / 13 Vienna / 15 Bucharest / 16 Turnul Severin / 20 Mount Falcon, Italy / 23 Bad Voslau / 25. Turin, Italy / 28 Sky Skyplane / May 2, Verona, Italy / May 5. Ploesti, Roumania / 6. Campina, Roumania / 7. Bucharest / 10. Weiner-Neustadt, Austria 12. Spezia / 13. Bologna, Italy / 18. Ploesti Oil Fields - Shot down 6-3861-AF

All in 1944

These are my pilots missions according to my notes.

5057

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRATONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L

9. Armorer Gunner Muzii, Louis A. S Sgt 32723364 Mrs. Ann Muzii (Mother) RTD
3011 Paulding Ave, Bronx, NY

10. RTD Armorer Gunner Klopchin, Andrew G S Sgt 32863910 Mrs. Mary Klopchin (Mother)
College Ave, Rockland Lake, NY

11.

12.

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (only one) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Jack H. Thomas	1st Lt	0802487		X		
2. George O. Keahey	1st Lt	0742727		X		
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
( ) Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
(x) Any other reason (specify) Plane was under control

13. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH; MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) No search

Date of this Report: 19 May 1944

Phillip F. Starkman
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

PHILLIP F. STARKMAN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant

4 Incls:
Incl 1 - Statement by Lt Thomas
Incl 2 - Statement by Lt Keahey
Incl 3 - Sketch of area.
Incl 4 - Statement by Major Thayer

RECEIVED
MAY 1944
WIN
WDA 66 WIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed to RESTRICTED
By E. A. MADDUX, Lt. Col., AC
By F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Air Fld, Italy Command or AF 15th AF
Group 455th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 743rd Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Air Fld Course Direct
Target 44°57'N 26°03'E Type of Mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Unknown

4. GIVE: (a) Date 18 May 1944 Time 1140 Location 43° 22'N - 25° 10'E of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacted by Radio
( ) Forced Down ( ) Seen to Crash; or
( ) Information not available.

5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
( ) Enemy Aircraft (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows:

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B 24 J AAF Serial No 42-64347

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) BP-433619
(b) BP-433480 (c) BP-434061 (d) BP-433619

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) Browning 50 Cal M2 (b) Browning 50 Cal M2
(c) " (d) "
(e) " (f) "
(g) " (h) "
(i) " (j) "

9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Cas.

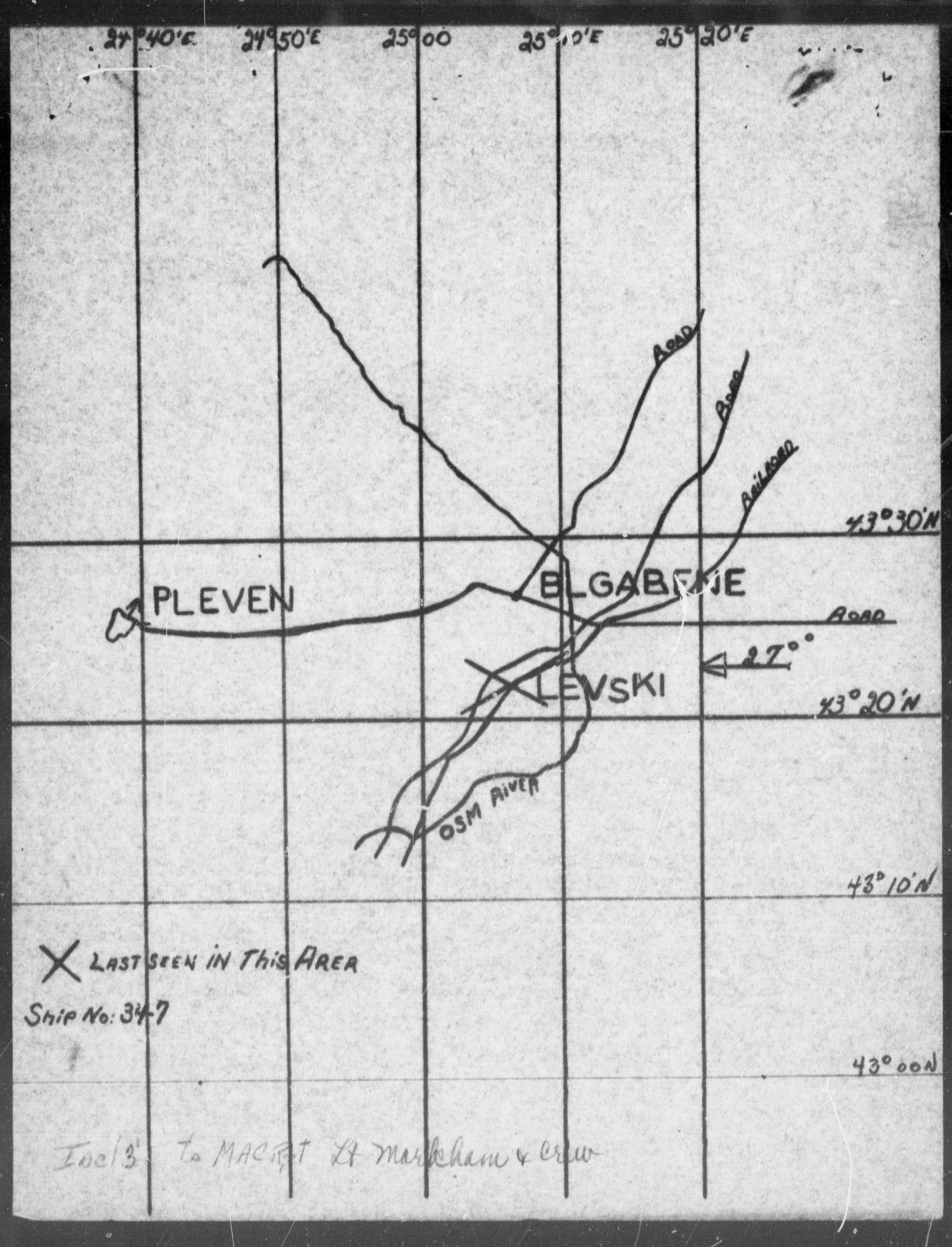
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers None Total 10
(Starting eith "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

	CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
1.	Pilot	Markham, Thomas J.	2d Lt	0803340	Mrs Doris E Markham (Wife) 25 Harris St., Marblehead, Mass.
2.	Co-pilot	Lokken, Lynn C	2d Lt	0687048	Mrs. Verna Baker (Mother) RTD Sabin, Minnesota
3.	Navigator	Poore, Wesley A.	2d Lt	0698226	Mr Alvin L. Poore (Father) RTD Beacons Field, Iowa
4.	Bombardier	Langpop, Louis G	2d Lt	0752818	Mr Otto E Langpop (Father) RTD 6041 N Nero Ave, Chicago, Ill.
5.	Radio O Gunner	Nelson, Delbert E	T Sgt	18209685	Mrs Levie Nelson (Mother) RTD Rt #4, Mangham, Louisiana
6.	Engineer Gunner	Schwemer, Louis E	T Sgt	16087443	Mrs. Catherine Schwemer (Mother) RTD 1660 Isabella Ave, Muskegon, Mich
7.	Engineer Gunner	Sasser, Gerald E	S Sgt	34702999	Mrs. Nora Davis Sasser (Mother) RTD 1121 Pressley St, Atmore, Ala
8.	Engineer Gunner	Arnson, Erling L	Pvt	12026299	Mrs Beatrice H. Arnson (Wife) 975 Broadway, Westbury, Long Island, New York RTD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)



Encl 3 to MACRAT Lt Markham & crew

Second Lieutenant Thomas J. Markham	Mrs. Doris E. Markham, (Wife) 25 Harris Street, Marblehead, Massachusetts.
Second Lieutenant Lynn C. Lokken POW ETO	Mrs. Verna Baker, (Mother) Sabin, Minnesota.
Second Lieutenant Wesley A. Poore	Mr. Alvin L. Poore, (Father) Beaconsfield, Iowa.
Second Lieutenant Louis G. Langpop	Mr. Otto E. Langpop, (Father) 6041 North Neva Avenue, Chicago 31, Illinois.
Technical Sergeant Delbert E. Nelson	Mrs. Levia J. Nelson, (Mother) Mangham, Louisiana.
Technical Sergeant Louis E. Schwemer	Mrs. Catherine Schwemer, (Mother) 1660 E. Isebella Avenue, Muskegon, Michigan.
Staff Sergeant Gerald E. Sasser RTD	Mrs. Nora D. Sasser, (Mother) 1121 Pressley Street, Atmore, Alabama.
Private Erling L. Arnson	Mrs. Beatrice H. Arnson, (Wife) 975 Broadway, Westbury, Long Island, New York.
Staff Sergeant Louis A. Muzii ETO	Mrs. Ann Muzii, (Mother) 3011 Paulding Avenue, Bronx, New York.
Staff Sergeant Andrew G. Klopchin RMC	Mrs. Mary Klopchin, (Mother) Collyer Avenue, Rockland Lake, New York.

Second Lieutenant Thomas J. Markham	Mrs. Doris E. Markham, (Wife) 25 Harris Street, Marblehead, Massachusetts.
Second Lieutenant Lynn C. Lokken	Mrs. Varna Baker, (Mother) Babin, Minnesota.
Second Lieutenant Wesley A. Poore	Mr. Alvin L. Poore, (Father) Beaconsfield, Iowa.
Second Lieutenant Louis G. Langpop	Mr. Otto E. Langpop, (Father) 6041 North Neva Avenue, Chicago 31, Illinois.
Technical Sergeant Delbert E. Nelson	Mrs. Levia J. Nelson, (Mother) Mangham, Louisiana.
Technical Sergeant Louis E. Schwemer	Mrs. Catherine Schwemer, (Mother) 1660 E. Isabella Avenue, Muskegon, Michigan.
Staff Sergeant Gerald E. Sasser	Mrs. Nora D. Sasser, (Mother) 1121 Pressley Street, Atmore, Alabama.
Private Erling L. Arnson	Mrs. Beatrice H. Arnson, (Wife) 975 Broadway, Westbury, Long Island, New York.
Staff Sergeant Louis A. Muzii	Mrs. Ann Muzii, (Mother) 3011 Paulding Avenue, Bronx, New York.
Staff Sergeant Andrew G. Klopchin	Mrs. Mary Klopchin, (Mother) Collyer Avenue, Rockland Lake, New York.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name ERLING L. ARMSON Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 12026299

2. Organization 455 B. Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO THAYER Rank MAJ.
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month MAY day 18 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, PLOEST I , target, _____ , target time, APPROX 11:15 , altitude, 20,000' route scheduled, _____ , route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER TARGET

6. Did you bail out? YES

7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". ALL BAILED OUT. MARKHAM LAST TO LEAVE SHIP.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR PLEVIN

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NONE

11. Where were they in aircraft? No

12. What was their condition? UNINJURED TO MY KNOWLEDGE

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? _____

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Andrew G. Klopchin Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 36863910
   (7434 Bomb Sqdn)
2. Organization 455th Bg Gp Commander Cool Rank Colonel Sqn CO Thayer Rank Major
   (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month May day 18 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 31 sortie, target, Ploesti Oil Fields, target time, 11:21 A.M., altitude, 22,000 route scheduled, Adriatic Sea across Northern Yugo into Roumania, route flown —
5. Where were you when you left formation? in the ball turret
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". (All persons bailed out.) No Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? near the town of Isac, Bulgaria
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) none
11. Where were they in aircraft? —
12. What was their condition? tail gunner and right waist gunner wounded
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I saw all other crew members, except pilot Thomas MacKhan, a few hours after we bailed out.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Thomas MacKhan was last seen by Louis Muzzi and Gerald Sasser on May 19, 1944 at a stop (town) approximately twenty minutes train Ride from Sofia, Bulgaria. He was in good health when last seen.
    Information was given to me by the two members mentioned above.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

I desire to aid in this investigation as much as possible. I am quite familiar with the "bailing out" region, having studied it on maps since our release from prison. Also was in a position to meet quite a few of the enemy personnel in view of the fact that I acted as translator for both my individual crew and the prison camp as a whole. One of the Bulgarian representatives whom I met and was interrogated by should be able to supply more information. His name is Benny Chernff and I believe he has been interrogated by our authorities. However, if this particular case were brought up to him, I feel he would recall some information relative to Lt. ~~Lokken~~ Markham. Another individual, who was in authority in the immediate vicinity of our landing area, was undoubtedly informed of Lt. Markham's capture. He was an officer in the Bulgarian Air Force. I would recognize him upon sight but do not know his name.

Please be advised that I do herewith volunteer to return to that country if it is felt that I can be of some assistance.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Louis G. Langpop Rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0-752818

2. Organization 455 B/Gp Commander _____ Rank Col. Sqn CO _____ Rank Major
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month May day 18 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Heavy Bombing, target, Ploesti, Roumania, target time, app. 1120, altitude, 20,000' route scheduled, Adriatic Yugoslavia, route flown same

5. Where were you when you left formation? Right Wing of Lead ship

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge".
Lt. Lokken bailed out about 1230 near Plevin, Bulgaria
Lt. Poore " " " " " " "
Sgts. Nelson, Muzii, Arndt, Klopchin, Schwemer, Sasser (same as above)

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Unknown

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)
None

11. Where were they in aircraft? -

12. What was their condition? -

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Saw Lt. Markham on flight deck of ship about 10 minutes before we all bailed out. No indication of his being injured. Talked with him over interphone from rear of ship one minute prior to bailing out.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

(over)

6-3862,AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Lynn C LaKken Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-687048

2. Organization 456th Bomb Gp Commander Cool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO Thayer (full name) Rank Major

3. What year 1944 month May day 18 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Ploesti Romania, target time, 11 20, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, —, route flown —

5. Where were you when you left formation? 5 minutes of flying Time west of Ploesti.

6. Did you bail out? yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? yes

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". Everyone bailed out and reached the ground safely

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Pleven, Bulgaria

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None

11. Where were they in aircraft? —

12. What was their condition? —

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I last saw Lt. T. J. Markham behind me on the catwalk as I bailed out, but Two of our enlisted men saw him on a Train a couple of days later. At that time he was in the hands of the Civilian Police, unharmed and well

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. —

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862,AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Louis Anthony Muzii Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 32723364

2. Organization A.A.F 455th Bomb Gp Commander Cool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO Thayer (full name) 743 Bomb Sqn. Rank Major

3. What year 1944 month May day 18th did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Ploesti, target, oil fields, Ploesti, target time, approx. 11:50, altitude, approx. 20,000 ft. route scheduled, _____, route flown over Yugoslavia into Rumania as scheduled.

5. Where were you when you left formation? Over the target.

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". All bailed out over (10 crew members) vicinity of Pleven, Bulgaria at approx. 12:45. 9 crew members captured within one hour and taken together for questioning at the airport of Pleven. 10th member, Pilot, was captured May 19th, and when last seen was enroute to be questioned by higher authorities.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Vicinity of Pleven, Bulgaria.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None

11. Where were they in aircraft? _____

12. What was their condition? _____

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? _____

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Palbert E. Nelson DISCHARGED Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 18209685

2. Organization _____ Gp Commander _____ Rank ____ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month May day 18 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, bombing mission, target, Ploesti Rumania, target time, Approx. 12:45, altitude, Approx. 19,000 ft. route scheduled, Not known, route flown Not known

5. Where were you when you left formation? Very Near Ploesti

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, all the crew bailed out

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge".

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Plevin, Bulgaria

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None

11. Where were they in aircraft?

12. What was their condition?

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? The pilot, Thomas J. Markham, was last seen by me in the plane before I bailed out. He was not wounded and was very calm.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No knowledge.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Poore, Wesley A. Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. O-698226

2. Organization 455th Gp Commander Cool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO Thayer (full name) Rank Major

3. What year 1944 month May day 18th did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Ploesti, target, Oil tanks & ref., target time, about 11:00, altitude, about 21,000 ft. route scheduled, normal, route flown as braifed.

5. Where were you when you left formation? About 15 miles west of Bucharest.

6. Did you bail out? Yes.

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes.

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". All bailed out within a few minutes of each other, about 12:40AM, about thirty miles west of Pleven, Bulgaria.(Taco?)

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? A few miles south of bail-out point.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.

11. Where were they in aircraft? ~~XXXXXX~~ XXXXXX

12. What was their condition? XXXXXX

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? XXXXXXX

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. XXXXXX

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862,AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Louis F Schwemer Rank T/Sgt Serial No. 16087443

2. Organization 455th BG Gp Commander Col. Cool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO Thayer (full name) Rank Major

3. What year 1944 month May day 18 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Ploesti, bombing target, Ploesti, target time, Approx. 11:30 o'clock, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, as briefed / believe, route flown as briefed (Not too much knowledge of either)

5. Where were you when you left formation? Just rallying from target

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". As near as I can remember our whole crew left the ship within minutes of one another over or near to the town of Pleven, Bulgaria.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near the town of Pleven, Bulgaria

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None

11. Where were they in aircraft?

12. What was their condition?

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? The complete crew, with exception of the pilot 2nd Lt Thomas J. Markham, were with me in the prisoner of War camp called Shuman. Tail gunner and waist gunner were wounded

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. I don't recall which two crews went down with us that day, but Captain Rawls and part of his crew were in the same prisoner of war camp.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
A.P.O. 520 U. S. ARMY

19 May 1944

STATEMENT

On May 18, 1944, at approximately 1140, I saw aircraft number 347, B-24, piloted by Lieutenant Markham, pass from view with number 1 engine feathered and number 2 engine somoking. We believe that the ship was hit by flak at the target and just after dropping their bombs thru the bomb bay doors it was attacked by ME 109s. The ship was under control and flying level when last seen.

George O. Keahey

GEORGE O. KEAHEY
1st Lt., Air Corps
Pilot

Incl 2 to MAC Rpt Lt Markham & crew

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
A.P.O. 520 U. S. ARMY

19 May 1944

S T A T E M E N T

1. Due to the neglect of the Armament Section in securing serial numbers of installed weapons on aircraft #42-64347, B 24 J, we are unable to furnish same, as required on Missing Air Crew Report.

2. Disciplinary action has been taken to prevent recurrence of such neglect in the future.

David S. Thayer

DAVID S. THAYER
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

Inc/4 to MAC Rpt Lt Markham & crew

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
A.P.O. 520 U. S. ARMY

19 May 1944

STATEMENT

On May 18, 1944, at aproximately 1140, I saw ship number 347, B-24, piloted by Lieutenant Markham, drop his bombs thru his bomb bay doors. It is believed that the airplane was hit by flak and later we saw it attacked by enemy ME 109s. It was under control when last seen with number 1 engine feathered and number 2 engine smoking.

Jack H Thomas

JACK H. THOMAS
1st Lt., Air Corps
Pilot

Incl 1 - to MAC rpt - Lt Markham crew

C O N F I D E N T I A L

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Commanding Officer
A.P.O. 520 U. S. ARMY

19 May 1944

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding Officer, 455th Bomb Gp (H), AAF, APO 520, U. S. ARMY.

1. Transmitted herewith is Missing Air Crew Report of 1st Lt., Thomas J. Markham and crew, missing in action 18 May 1944 over enemy territory at Rumania.

For the Squadron Commander:

Phillip F. Starkman
PHILLIP F. STARKMAN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant

1 Incl:
MAC RPT of Lt Markham and Crew
with 4 Inclosures.

360.33 1st Ind. G-CO-3
HQ 455TH BOMB GP (H), APO 520, 22 May 1944.

TO: CG, 304th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520.

1. Forwarded.

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded your headquarters on 22 May 1944.

For the Group Commander:

C. A. OLSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

360.33 C-DB-5 2nd Ind. 5057 5057
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 23 May 44.
TO: CG, XVAF, APO 520.

1. Attention is directed to basic communication. 5057

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded your Headquarters 21 May 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

Harold G. Wilson
HAROLD G. WILSON,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/c

AG 360.33 3rd Ind. GP-hm/gow
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 3 June 1944.

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534. Attn: Casualty Branch, AGD.

Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR No L-85, dated 22 May 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 22 May 1944.

For the Commanding General:

Harold B. Neely
HAROLD B. NEELY,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 (dup).